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Legal Studies

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Readers of the journal may have noticed that the editor has assumed the new responsibilities of Chief Executive of the Further and Higher Education Funding Councils for Wales. Whilst still an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, for the next few years a great deal of my time will be taken up with these new responsibilities and, in these circumstances, I will not be able to devote the energy and attention to the editing of *Legal Studies* which the journal properly requires.

Professor John Bell of the University of Leeds will succeed me as editor from January 1994. He will be supported by a team of colleagues in Leeds, but the reviews editorship will remain with Professor Richard Kidner in Aberystwyth. The remaining 1993 number of *Legal Studies* is now full. It would be helpful if from now on authors submit their manuscripts to Professor Bell. Details of his address are included on the inside of the rear cover. Books for review should continue to be sent to Richard Kidner.

This note is by way of information. An editorial note by way of comment and appreciation will appear in the autumn number.

John Andrews

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EDITORIAL

Readers of the Editorial Note prefacing the July number of *Legal Studies* will know that this November number is the last to appear under the present editorship. The opportunity to fashion and develop a new journal has been a challenge and a privilege.

Legal Studies grew out of the *Journal of the Society of Public Teachers of Law*, a journal which was published in two series. The *Old Series* appeared in annual volumes from 1924 until 1938 under the editorship of Professor H. F. Jolowicz. During the years 1939–46 the journal was not published, but in 1947 a *New Series* began and continued until 1980. Professor H. F. Jolowicz edited the *New Series* until his death in 1955. He was succeeded by Professor F. H. Lawson, who was in turn succeeded in 1962 by Professor J. A. Jolowicz who edited the *Journal* until the final volume in 1980.

The *JSPTL* was closely associated with the affairs of the Society of Public Teachers of Law and was widely seen as the Society's journal. By 1980 many members of the Society were of the view that there was a need to change the style and widen the scope of the existing *Journal*, so as to develop a new academic periodical with a wider appeal. The then editor was in the forefront of those advocating change and the new proposals were enthusiastically backed by the publishers. As the incoming editor, I was greatly helped by those who had supported the creation of the new journal and most especially by Professor Jolowicz. The publishers and their staff were unstinting in their support and guidance in the practical affairs of producing a new periodical and the first number of *Legal Studies* duly appeared in March 1981.

It appeared at a time when the emphasis in legal periodicals had markedly shifted from the traditional academic journal to those aimed at the professional market. There had been an enormous expansion in this area of legal publishing since the late 1940s and, as I commented in the editorial to the first number, paralleling this had been an expansion in the number of specialist journals catering for a mixed academic and professional readership. These developments presented enormous opportunities to would-be authors and to publishers able to enjoy the benefits of a relatively captive readership. At the same time they changed the balance of legal authorship and scholarship. A rapidly growing legal profession largely requires text which synthesises the material it needs for its work. Alongside this, it is clearly important to provide an outlet for broad academic legal scholarship.

The aim of *Legal Studies* has been to publish contributions distinguished by their scholarship and, so far as is reasonably possible, by their having a more general rather than a more specialist interest. The Council of the Society of Public Teachers of Law generously gave me a free hand to fashion the journal in accordance with agreed objectives. As readers will have noted, *Legal Studies* does not adopt the pattern of other academic periodicals which commonly include sections of case or statute

notes. Similarly *Legal Studies* has never published short descriptive book reviews. Rather we have sought to publish selective reviews which are of scholarly significance in their own right. It is gratifying to note that several academic law journals have moved towards a similar book review strategy, leaving the short descriptive reviews to appear in the more specialist or practitioner-oriented journals.

Although one aim of *Legal Studies* has been to influence the nature of legal scholarship, clearly the overwhelming force is the influence of legal scholars on *Legal Studies* itself, since it is their contributions which determine the nature and quality of the journal. The journal has been fortunate in the support which it has enjoyed from contributors. The articles and reviews have variously been philosophical, historical, comparative, analytical and sociological in their approach and on appropriate occasions the journal has included material which is more broadly expository and synthesised. On rare, but welcome occasions, I have had the good fortune to publish material which is both scholarly and touched with humour and, if an editor may be allowed to strike a personal cord, I commend to the reader the article by Peter Goodrich in this number. It is the last one to appear under my editorship.

The responsibilities and the work involved in publishing a journal are considerable. In addition to extending my thanks to the contributors, I wish to add a very sincere thank you to the many friends and supporters of the journal whose concern has been vital in its success. These include the officers of the Society who provided significant backing to the new venture in the years 1979–81, and the staff of Butterworths who throughout the last thirteen years have been unstinting in their support.

I owe a particular debt of gratitude to those who have assisted me practically as editor. In recent years these have included my colleagues Sue Arrowsmith and Barry Hough who, as assistant editors of the journal, have generously given of their time and energy. Without their support it is unlikely that I would have been able to have continued to edit the journal over the last four years, when outside demands on my time have increased. They have worked quietly and with great generosity of endeavour to ensure the successful appearance of the journal.

Professor Richard Card was Reviews Editor for the first three volumes and did much to set the style of the review section. In 1984 he was succeeded by my colleague Richard Kidner who, as well as bringing considerable energy and commitment to that role, has provided me with great support in my work as editor. On occasions his role has been nearer to that of deputy editor. I am delighted that he will be staying on as Reviews Editor and working closely with Professor John Bell who will be my successor.

My final thanks must be to my many colleagues in Aberystwyth and elsewhere who over the years have helped me by reading contributions to *Legal Studies*. Many of my Aberystwyth colleagues have given most generously of their time and the advantage of being able to have an immediate and close point of reference to colleagues in different areas of legal discipline has been of great benefit. Without this support my task would have been a much more difficult one.

The support of the officers of the Society over the last thirteen years has been generous. They have provided help and advice when needed and have generously allowed the editor freedom to continue to fashion and develop the journal, with that sensible, unwritten understanding on both sides that agreed objectives for the new journal would be adhered to.

I am sure my successor John Bell and his colleagues at Leeds who will be assisting him in the task of editorship will continue to enjoy the support and encouragement of the officers and members of the Society, and I have no doubt that they will bring in new ideas which will be of benefit to readers and contributors and which will allow *Legal Studies* to play an ever important part in improving and extending the quality and compass of legal scholarship. As retiring editor I would like to extend my very best wishes to the new editor and his team.

John Andrews
September 1993